

The regular meeting of the Town Assembly of the Village of Arden was held on June 24, 1974 with Chairman, William Press presiding.

Correspondence was received from A. J. Casey acknowledging our letter of March 27 requesting notification of use of heavy equipment in Naamans Creek.

Incorporation Committee of Ardentown reported that Ardentown had voted to seek incorporation rather than annexation by Arden.

A motion was made and passed to accept the minutes of the March meeting as circulated.

The Trustees reported that they had obtained a slight reduction in taxes because a small piece of land had not been deeded to the Village of Arden when the commons and forests were deeded. This has now been done and the taxes will be reduced about \$480. this year.

The financial report of the Trustees was read and a copy is on file. The land rent that has been collected has been invested to earn interest until it is needed for payment of taxes to New Castle County. The actual cash in checking account is low.

The Trustees wrote to Pierre DuPont to see if he could arrange to have air traffic rerouted during two out door productions of TWELFTH NIGHT. He responded by giving Mr. Liberman information as to how to arrange with the Philadelphia Tower.

The Auditing Committee reported on its audit of the town books as follows: Operations resulted in a net expense of 11,714 to the General Fund vs. a net expense of \$4,185 anticipated by the Budget Committee. This is an over-expenditure of \$7,529. The county and school taxes were \$22,488 higher than budget, sewer assessment \$923. higher and Administrative expenses \$1,918. These over expenditures were offset by transfer of \$3000. from Municipal Street Aid Fund, Return of money from Roads, Commons, and no clean-up expenditure. The surplus as of March 24, 1974 was \$172. Municipal Street Aid fund had balance or \$700., Revenue Sharing, \$1,777. and Buzz Ware Village Center \$1,703. On motion the Auditing Committee report was accepted as read.

No report from the Budget Committee.

Civic Committee report by Warren Hoffman: Major activites have included arranging for annual clean-up, removal of dead trees, arranging for removal of abandoned automobiles, and arranging for road repairs.

Cleanup in Arden in May cost less than anticipated because of improved collection techniques by our contractor.

A large number of trees including elms, cherries, and oaks have died over the winter. The removal of these trees will cost several hundreds of dollars. The Town will pay for removal only of trees on the Town right-of-way. Leaseholders are responsible for removal of trees on their leaseholds.

According to County Housing Code, it is illegal to store an inoperative motor vehicle for more than 30 days. After an inspection, letters were sent to all leaseholders and residents having abandoned vehicles. If they were not removed, the County Department of Licenses and Inspections was notified.

Streets to be paved this year include Sherwood Road from Lovers Lane and around part of the Highway, Cherry Lane, Inn Lane from Cherry Lane to Walnut, The Sweep, and Millers Road from Cherry Lane to Walnut. A concrete gutter will be installed on one side of Millers Road. Meadow Lane will be patched and work will be done to eliminate standing water at the Orleans Road-Harvey Road intersection.

Because the New Castle County tax bill be approximately \$7000 more than the amount budgeted, the Civic Committee will yield approximate this amount to meet the tax bill. The Civic Committee again urge the Budget Committee to take realistic estimates of taxes in account when preparing the 1975-76 budget.

Civic Committee suggests a motion under new business to direct the Budget Committee to include a paragraph specifying a method for making necessary changes to the Budget.

There was expensive vandalism done to equipment left by George Kershaw to pave the Arden roads. The expense will have to be borne by Arden. The boys involved are known and turned over to State Police. Mr. Kershaw will prosecute and the Town will also if necessary.

Back stop on the Sherwood Green has fallen, but it will be replaced if cost is feasible. Playground equipment has been ordered.

Use of Arden wood by Motor bikes and bicycles was reported, but it was suggested this be reported to the Safety Committee for action.

Mr. Starr objected to receiving letter about his undlicensed car because it is a Mercedes Benz that will be repaired as soon as possible. He felt he should have been called about it and not received a letter outlining the Housing Code violation. On motion the report was received as read.

Community Planning Report:

1. Committee is looking into rehabilitating the Walt Whitman Memorial on the Arden Green. Some simple plantings and a stone bench are contemplated.
 2. The Arden Book is progressing slowly at the printers. It is expected in time for the Fair.
 3. Landscape Planning.
 - a. Pump House on Meadow Lane will be removed and area landscaped.
 - b. Planting at the entrance of Arden at Harvey Road and Lower Lane by the Merry-go-Rounders has been completed.
 - c. Trees are being collected for planting next spring on the Sherwood Green.
 4. Trees in the Memorial Garden, will be identified with small metal signs.
- The report on motion accepted.

Registration Committee report by Kay Ringer. There are 410 voters as of this meeting. Another block party was held early in June at the home of Jane and Henry Aughey. Many residents in the area attended and all seemed to enjoy the fellowship. Another party will be held early in September.

The Safety Committee report was presented by Thomas Colgan. They are going to continue practice of having open meetings. Chairman is Thomas Colgan, Warren Hoffman is Secretary. Temma Tanzer has agreed to act as clerk for handling of summonses issued by the Arden constables.

To date 9 tickets have been issued and a total of \$41 in fines collected. Each police-constable has a badge and identification card with a photograph. Authorization has been received from Superintendent of State Police for constables to use the New Castle County Recom Unit to obtain names and addresses of Delaware vehicles found in violation of Arden ordinances.

Dogs continued to present problems. Residents are urged to put their complaints in writing.

Residents who live on the Arden Green are again urged to obtain resident parking stickers from Rae Gerstine.

A complaint was received concerning parking on the school green. The Village Center Committee has been asked to seek an end to regular and overnight parking. No ordinance prohibits this practice, however, it is not recommended by the Safety Committee.

A request has been received to make Pond Road one way, downhill, because of insufficient passing space and to reduce the volume of traffic heading for the pool on that road. This resident was advised to canvass the residents on Pond and Meadow Lane and then make a formal request to the Committee.

Residents were again urged to call the police when they observe any violation of any ordinance.

The report of the committee on motion approved.

The Buzz Ware Village Center report by William Morley.

The Center was dedicated on May 18, 1974 with a brief ceremony arranged by Penny Colgan. Music was provided by Miriam Gerstine and Waldo Coons. There were brief remarks by Cy Liberman and then Edith Ware unveiled the beautiful sign made and erected by David Burslem. We were happy to welcome Philip Cohen back signaling his recovery.

The summer program of ACRA is using the center. By fall we expect to be well along with the Adult lounge area.

The center is still bothered by vandalism and request that all acts observed be reported.

Sue Dougherty is moving from the area and her successor will be elected under new business. The report on motion accepted.

The report of the Board of Assessors was circulated. The Full Rental Value of Arden land was determined to be 7.2% of the land value based on a 10 year (1965-1974) moving average on conventional mortgage rates. Land value was set at \$4725 for 1/4 acre lots with proportional value for smaller lots. All other lots were valued at \$4725 for first 1/4 acre and \$15,750 per acre for that portion above 1/4 acre.

Translated into rentals for 1000 sq. ft. results in following figures:
 First 1/4 acre or less-----\$31.24/1000 sq. ft.
 Above 1/4 acre-----\$26.03/1000 sq. feet.

It is estimated the above will yield \$114,000 in rental income.

Sliding scale has been modified to some extent. Any lot containing more than one domicile in form of separate dwelling or apartments shall pay land rental equal that for the full quarter acre rate times the number of such domiciles, or the full quarter acre rate for the entire lot, whichever is the lesser. All land in excess of 1/4 acre times the number of domiciles shall be subject to rental at 26.03/1000 sq.ft.

Forest factor was established at 12% and Greens factor for all the Greens was established at 5%.

Voting for the proposal was Shaul Gladstone, Pat Liberman, and Aaron Hamburger. Michael Curtis favored a higher rate based on different formula. Penny Colgan abstained because she did not agree with formula and Carl Von Dreele favored increase in rental value for smaller lots and a decrease in rental value for larger lots. Morris Roain did not attend any working sessions of the Board. Michael Curtis and Penny Colgan signed the Board of Assessors report and the Parliamentarian, June Kleban, ruled it was the majority report of the Board of Assessors.

The Board of Assessors will hold an open meeting on September 4 for the purpose of explaining the new assessment. It will be held in the Buzz Ware Village Center at 8 P. M.

Carl Von Dreele reminded that the Board of Assessors decision can only be overturned by a referendum in November following an approval of an alternative proposal by a two-thirds vote at the September Town Assembly.

He moved that the report be rejected on grounds it does not reflect a majority vote of Board of Assessors and directs to Board to continue its deliberations.

The average increase of the assessment of Board of Assessors is about 20%. The Deed of Trust states that full rental value be collected and the leases say the rate established by the Board of Assessors shall be collected.

A motion was made that the Town Assembly receive the report of the Board of Assessors. Affirmed by a vote of 48 to 22 nays.

Leon Tanzer reported for the Ardens' Resources Committee. During the past several years the committee has worked on problems confronting the three communities. It is his feeling that because of certain changes that have developed recently, this committee should be dissolved. This will be taken care of under New Business.

There was no report from the Harvey Road Committee.

Advisory Committee made the following nominations to vacancy on the Buzz Ware Village Center Committee: Beatrice Jaffe and Irene O'Conner. There were no nominations from the floor. The Registration Committee conducted the election and reported that Beatrice Jaffe had been elected.

The Advisory Committee discussed ways to make emergency revision of the Budget. This matter will be discussed under new business.

Joan Colgan had raised the question of who should be represented on the Advisory Committee. The By-Laws define the committee as representation from standing committees and the trustees and chairman of the Town Assembly. Voting will be limited to these representatives, but it was felt that all committees of the Town Assembly even though they may be temporary should be represented to coordinate the work in the Village.

Old Business: William Press announced that Hugh Roberts has accepted the appointment of Deputy Chairman.

During the discussion of some of our budget problems it was pointed out that our budgets are not flexible and there is only a limited way to handle emergency expenditures. The Civic Committee can interchange road and commons funds where necessary, but the Budget Committee should be in on these decisions.

A motion was made and passed that the following motion be included for adoption with the 1975-76 Budget.

Arden Budget Emergency Revision Proposal
(For Adoption with 197576 Budget)

"The Budget Committee shall review actual and anticipated receipts and expenditures prior to each Town Assembly. If any single expenditure item or the total of all such items is expected to deviate by \$1000. from the budget because of an unanticipated emergency expenditure, other items shall be revised as necessary to ensure that total expenditures do not exceed receipts. The revised budget showing new and old figures shall be submitted in writing to the Town Assembly for approval by a two-thirds vote at a regular or special meeting."

A motion was made and passed to dissolve the the Arden Resources Committee. Leon Tanzer was thanked by the Town Assembly for the excellent work he had done in chairing this committee.

ACRA reported they are having an active season that has been very well attended. ACRA erected a very attractive bulletin board on the Arden Green and they have given permission for other groups to use space on the board.

Henry Aughey felt that time has come to consider method of taxing our properties. He stated that according to the Deed of Trust, improvements on the land cannot be taxed. The Trustees should not pay for the property taxes and just pay land tax and sewer assessments.

He made a resolution that the Trustees be requested cease paying taxes on improvements on Arden Land and they should ask the Chancellor for a decision on this.

Some people felt that the taxes would not change very much, because we need money to run the town.

The resolution was tabled for action at a special Town Assembly.

A resolution was made that all ordinances and rules should be fully enforced by the committees involved.

On motion the meeting adjourned. Respectfully submitted, *Mary Morley*
Mary Morley, Secretary